

April 19, 2006

The Martin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina.

## **ASSEMBLY**

Chairman C. Mort Hurst, Vice Chairman Tommy W. Bowen, Commissioners Ronnie Smith, Elmo "Butch" Lilley and Alphonzo Perry, County Manager W. Russell Overman and Clerk to the Board Linda G. Hardison were present. County Attorney J. Melvin Bowen was not in attendance.

Chairman Hurst called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Vice Chairman Bowen, Commissioner Lilley offered the Invocation.

Chairman Hurst began the meeting by introducing his fellow Commissioners, Manager and Clerk. Members of the audience who were introduced included candidates for office and elected officials.

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chairman Hurst requested that two items on the agenda be moved ahead of schedule because of traveling time: Item 2-2 be moved to 2-1 and Item 3-5 be moved to 3-1.

MOTION by Vice Chairman Bowen, SECOND by Commissioner Smith, to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION APPROVED by a unanimous vote of the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution – Don Chance, Sr.:** Chairman Hurst asked Commissioner Smith if he would read the Resolution Honoring Mr. Don Chance, Sr. on the occasion of His 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and make the presentation of the framed document to Mr. Chance's family. The following resolution was read into the record.

Resolution Honoring Mr. Don Chance, Sr.  
on the Occasion of His 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Whereas, longevity of life is a blessing to an individual and to a community by providing an opportunity for an investment of knowledge, creativity, and experience for all; and

Whereas, Mr. Don Chance, Sr. has reached a milestone in his life that few ever attain; and

**Whereas, Mr. Don Chance, Sr. is the second of twelve siblings to reach this Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Martin County Board of** prestigious age of 100 years; and

Whereas, Mr. Don Chance, Sr. has earned the respect and admiration of the citizens of Martin County by his contributions to the community by:

- Founding and becoming a charter member of Mt. Gethsemane Baptist Church
- Serving the Robersonville Housing Authority for nearly 50 years
- Beginning his higher education at NC A&T College in Greensboro and graduating from Virginia State University in 1933
- Educating and serving in several different schools and capacities from 1933 through the 1970's
- Serving almost two decades on the Board of Elections

Commissioners that special tribute be paid to Mr. Don Chance, Sr. on the special occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and he be wished continued good health for the future.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, SECOND by Vice Chairman Bowen, to accept the Resolution Honoring Mr. Don Chance, Sr. as presented. MOTION APPROVED by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Ms. Don Chance, Jr. accepted the Resolution on behalf of the Chance family and thanked the Board for remembering her father-in-law on this occasion. She said Mr. Chance had planned to attend but he had a virus and was not feeling well.

**Selection of Engineering Firm for Martin Community College Drainage:** Manager Overman explained that Requests for Proposals had been sent to three engineering firms for the drainage work at the community college: McDavid Associates, Rivers and The Wooten Company. Proposals have been received from each firm. A synopsis of each proposal was furnished to the Commissioners at the meeting. The RFP did not request a dollar amount proposal because engineering firms are not required by law to submit amounts. Engineering services are to be selected as the most qualified and a contract is then negotiated. Standard rate sheets were submitted by Rivers and The Wooten Company.

All three of these firms offer very good service and all three are actively working on county projects. Manager Overman explained that he has worked with The Wooten Company with his previous employer on drainage projects and has first hand knowledge of their work. However, Rivers and Associates did the preliminary engineering report for the community college on this project so they are most familiar with the situation at the college. Of the three firms, McDavid and Wooten have actually worked on more projects involving Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF).

Finally, the Manager offered the recommendation that The Wooten Company be allowed to prepare the necessary grant applications for the community college drainage project.

Since the Board did not receive this information before the meeting began and did not have time to study the RFPs, Chairman Hurst tabled action on this item until the May meeting.

**Proclamation – Nation County Government Week:** Each year a week is designated as National County Government Week to promote the services offered by local government and thank the local government employees for their dedication to the citizens. The following Proclamation was offered for consideration.

*Proclamation*  
National County Government Week  
*April 23-29, 2006*  
Protecting Our Communities

America's counties provide a variety of essential services. Many of these services work to protect our communities.

Counties protect residents from natural disasters, terrorist attacks, crime and drug abuse. Counties are the first to respond to emergency situations and are primarily responsible for planning for disasters. Counties also work to protect families, children and youth.

There are 3,066 counties in the United States, collectively responsible for the well being of more than 250 million residents.

Counties provide services that make America's communities stronger, safer places to live and raise families. Counties police our streets, fight fires, save lives in hospitals, keep families healthy, repair bridges, plow snow, help troubled youth, train laid-off workers and perform countless other jobs.

Counties have a long history of providing critical services. County governments are the citizens' local government voice, providing solutions that bring communities together.

In recognition of the leadership, innovation and valuable service provided by our nation's counties:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Martin County Board of Commissioners that April 23 – 29, 2006 is hereby proclaimed

National County Government Week.

MOTION by Commissioner Lilley, SECOND by Commissioner Perry, to approve the Proclamation for National County Government Week as presented. MOTION APPROVED by a unanimous vote of the Board.

**Proclamation – County & Municipal Clerks Week:** The following Proclamation was presented to emphasize the work of the clerk in local government. Commissioner Smith asked the Clerk to read the Proclamation into the record.

*Proclamation*  
COUNTY & MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK  
*April 30 through May 6, 2006*

**Whereas**, the Office of the County & Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

**Whereas**, the Office of the County & Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

**Whereas**, the Office of the County & Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and

**Whereas**, County & Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

**Whereas**, the County & Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

**Whereas**, County & Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the County & Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, province, county and international professional organizations; and

**Whereas**, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the County & Municipal Clerk.

**Now, Therefore, the Martin County Board of Commissioners** does recognize the week of April 30 through May 6, 2006, as County & Municipal Clerks Week, and further extends appreciation to our County Clerk, Linda G. Hardison, and to all Municipal Clerks within the County of Martin for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, SECOND by Vice Chairman Bowen, to approve the Proclamation for County & Municipal Clerks Week as presented. MOTION APPROVED by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Chairman Hurst recognized Clerk to the Board Linda Hardison for her recent election as Secretary of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks and pointed out that she is now in the line of progression to serve her peers as President of the Association. Each Commissioner took the opportunity to publicly thank the Clerk for her service and dedication to the Board. Commissioner Perry informed everyone that although she has recently completed the tests and requirements for recertification, she has begun work toward the designation of Master Municipal Clerk.

**E-911 Addressing:** Several commissioners and emergency service providers have recently brought some E911 addressing issues to the attention of the Manager. Most of

the issues revolve around the lack of address numbers being placed at residences and businesses throughout the county, as well as an outdated E911 address list.

Manager Overman pointed out that the county already has a Communications Advisory Committee in place. He suggested that this committee should meet to address the issues and make recommendations before the Board takes action.

Commissioner Smith suggested that the newspaper help with getting the information out to the public, such as where the green numbered signs can be purchased and encourage the public to display these signs.

The Board discussed the need for these issues to be addressed. Manager Overman explained that a meeting is scheduled for next week with state representatives to discuss 911 monies and how they can be utilized. He offered to bring the information from this meeting, along with a recommendation from the Communications Advisory Committee, to the Board at the May meeting.

Chairman Hurst tabled this discussion until the May meeting.

## **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Chairman Hurst explained that each agency will be allotted five (5) minutes to make its budget requests.

**BHM Regional Library:** Ms. Maryjane Carbo, Library Director of BHM Regional Library, began her presentation by introducing members of her Board and local staff. The BHM Regional Library Board requested an appropriation of \$75,000 for the support of library services in Martin County for FY 2006-2007. This amounts to a 3% increase (\$2,200) over last year's appropriation.

Martin County's two libraries and the Martin County Bookmobile continue to be an integral part of the whole community. Last year, Martin County citizens borrowed 76,500 books, videos, audiotapes and magazines.

**Tax Department:** Tax Administrator Tommy Roberson presented the budget requests for the Tax Department. Increases include: 20 hours per week for Danny Griffin; full-time temporary person to help with delinquent accounts; new computer and printer for new employee and a safe to keep overnight monies that have not been deposited.

**Soil Conservation:** Mr. Richard Cannon, Chairman of the Martin Soil & Water Conservation District, presented a budget very similar to last year's request. The one major increase is the request for a truck to be used by the district technician. In years past, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has provided a vehicle at a cost of \$1,000 annually. Due to federal budget issues, they will no longer provide this vehicle. A vehicle is a necessity for this position.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Ms. Sheri Copeland, Executive Director of the Martin County Chamber of Commerce requested an allocation of \$12,600 to be used for commercial development. Monies will be used for salaries and printing promotional materials.

**Roanoke River Partners:** Ms. Cindy Tripp, Executive Director of the Roanoke River Partners, thanked the Board for their first time allocation last year. She requested the same amount of \$1,000 for FY 2006-2007.

**Martin Community College:** Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin Community College, presented a request of \$978,111 for Current Operating Expenses and \$176,000 for Capital Outlay.

As recommended by the state, a salary increase of 4% was estimated. Current forecast indicates an increase in liability insurance of 7% and an increase of 10% for property insurance.

A number of fixed cost and variable budgeted line items were adjusted to an inflation factor of 2.2%,2.8% or 3.7%. An inflation factor of 19.9% was used for fuel, and an inflation factor of 3.7% was used for electricity. Inflation factors were taken from the February 2006 Federal Consumer Index.

The line item "Student Work Study Program" for \$15,000 is a required federal match for federal funds for a Student Work Study Program. This line item was in the County budget for many years but was eliminated when a waiver of the requirement for matching funds was received. It appears that the waiver may not be granted this year. If this is the case, federal dollars would be lost that are used to employ students.

Capital outlay request includes a phone system upgrade and an upgrade of security system. Changing the current Centrex phone system to an IP telephone system would allow the college to sustain growing technology demands. The existing security system was installed in the 198-'s. It does not have cameras, and motion devices are inadequate and outdated. The current system does not meet the needs of a changing environment.

The College and the County have a tremendous liability related to the drainage problems. The Commissioners have agreed to pursue resolution to this problem, which has recently been estimated at approximately \$900,000. Monies for this project are not included in the budget request.

**Economic Development Corporation:** Mr. Stan Crowe, Chairman of the Martin County Economic Development Corporation, presented the same budget request of \$192,293 as in the past two years. He pointed out that insurance is increasing 30% and the cost of the annual audit is increasing. He also stated that salaries are low and will be addressed by the Board. Allocations for these increases will be from other funding sources.

**Martin County Arts Council:** Ms. Glinda Fox, Chairman of the Arts Council, made the presentation. She began by thanking the Board for previous support and stated that her Board was making a request for a substantial increase. The request was made for \$15,000 with the Council stating that they have demonstrated a long term commitment to offering the arts to the children in our community and improving the cultural environment that is necessary to maintain and increase our population base.

Most immediate needs include:

- A part-time director (They currently have \$1,836.25 saved in a Director's fund from a fundraiser last summer. They anticipate it will cost approximately \$15,000-20,000 to hire a qualified part time director with limited grant writing capabilities)
- Building renovation costs (They anticipate needing an additional \$20,000 to complete the first floor in order to open the building. They had one fundraiser last fall and two more are planned in 2006. They anticipate raising about \$8,000 total in the next two fundraisers.)

Commissioner Hurst thanked Ms. Fox for her presentation and told her the Board will be looking at what surrounding counties are doing for the arts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business on the agenda, Chairman Hurst adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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C. Mort Hurst, Chairman

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Linda G. Hardison, Clerk to the Board